

MR. SKAAR: My name is Vic, V-I-C, S-K-A-A-R.

SEP 05 2001

7 For the record, I'm a retired public health
8 professional. I'm currently an environmental manager,
9 certified in the state of Nevada. Foremost, I'm an
10 American. I'm an American and by choice I happen to
11 live and reside in Nevada, Las Vegas, Nevada. I
12 suspect that most of the people in that hearing room
13 are basically the same as me, Americans who live here
14 by choice, not necessarily born here.

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15 As an American, I support the storage of the
16 government-owned nuclear materials at Yucca Mountain
17 and because of security, this material, this
18 government-owned material, it is not waste material.
19 It is important that the government bring all of this
20 material together under one roof in one warehouse so
21 they have security of the material. It's a retrievable
22 storage in a government facility. It is not a dump.
23 This is a renewable energy source, as has been stated
24 by others. It appears to be the most logical site, not
25 only is it the only site, so therefore, it's quite

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1 logical.

2 Far too much money has been spent to admit
3 defeat and start over. The site is ideal, ideal
4 location. No exposure to the general public. The
5 material is not waste, as I've said before. The site
6 is more of a warehouse than a dump. It should be
7 insulting for this multibillion-dollar site to be
8 referred to as a dump. We understand that that sells

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9 newspapers and makes good media hype, but it's not
10 technically correct.

11 My personal experience -- 35 and a half years
12 ago, I was exposed, ingested plutonium 239 resulting
13 from a broken arrow, which is a military term for a
14 collision or any incident involving a nuclear weapon
15 during the Cold War. A Strategic Air Command B-52, the
16 bomber, KS-135, a tanker, collided over Spain during a
17 refueling incident which went on for 26 years. The
18 four weapons aboard the B-52 were released from the
19 aircraft and floated to the Earth. Two of them landed
20 intact because they had good parachute deployments and
21 they landed intact in a village of Palomares, Spain.
22 One landed on land. The fourth one landed in the
23 water. The other two landed in the village with such
24 an impact from 30,000 feet that the high explosives
25 that detonate the weapon exploded on impact and broke

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1 the casing open and the dioxide was released to a
2 windstorm. A plume contaminated some 450 acres.

3 I was there 73 days and I have documented
4 record, my medical records, if you will, where I was
5 exposed. I am a member of the High 26, which at that
6 time, were selected by those of us with urinalysis on
7 record, that had seven percent or greater of whole body
8 dose recorded. There were 26 of us out of the 700 or
9 so that was there. The record at the time, the
10 officials at the time recommended that we be evaluated
11 during our lifetimes and postmortems thereafter because

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12 there were no other comparable exposures to be studied.

13 I thank God that I'm alive after 35 and a
14 half years and I don't have any evidence of cancer,
15 according to doctors. It took me 16 months after I
16 left the site before my urinalysis returned to normal.
17 There was no detect for plutonium.

18 I conclude that for those that object to the
19 repository based on human health -- and that term is
20 thrown around by everybody out there -- the most
21 ignorant people will be discussing human health and
22 something called the environment. Well, I would
23 recommend that the folks, the authority for human
24 health issues is the toxicological profiles that are
25 done by the U.S. Department of Health and Human

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1 Services, which is the agency for toxic substance and
2 disease registry -- agency for toxic substance and
3 disease registry. It is a division of the U.S.
4 Department of Health and Human Services. On that staff
5 are also EPA, Environmental Protection Agency
6 scientists. So it is a combination of findings from
7 two agencies, one department and one agency of the
8 Federal Government. It is the authority mandated by
9 Congress that this agency had studied 100 of the most
10 toxic chemicals known to man and plutonium was one of
11 them.

12 Ionizing radiation, this profile covers all
13 of the ionizing radiation. In this document, if people
14 studied this document, they would realize that there

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15 are two overriding concepts of toxicology. One, is the
16 dose makes the poison. And the second is, zero
17 exposure is still equal to zero risk. And since the
18 general public will not be exposed to plutonium,
19 whether it's in transport or whether it's in storage,
20 then we ought to look at human health issues rather
21 than emotional issues.

22 And there is another aspect of what we've
23 heard tonight. To compare the medical effects on
24 humans from the fallout of the air test, okay, out at
25 the test site, above-ground tests, to compare those
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1 medical effects with the plutonium as it would be
2 stored and secured at Yucca Mountain, is like apples
3 and oranges. There is no comparison because there is
4 no fallout from this material. It is just almost
5 inert, if it's handled properly.

6 Thank you for your interest.

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